

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney

2100 Jamieson Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 299-3700

Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 16, 2004
Alexandria, Virginia

For further information contact
Sam Dibbley 703-299-3822

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Shirley A. Franklin, age 49, of Culver City, California, pleaded guilty today before District Court Judge Gerald Bruce Lee to one count of illegally supplementing, by the amount of \$347,000, the salary of a Department of Defense (DoD) official, in connection with DoD business with Computer Consulting Operations Specialists, Inc., (CCOPS), an information technology company based in California. From 1998 through 2000, Franklin was a CCOPS project manager on contracts in which CCOPS provided administrative and information technology services to DoD's Defense Modeling and Simulation Office (DMSO) in Alexandria, Virginia. He faces a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine when sentenced on September 17, 2004.

Franklin allowed DoD official Francis Jones to withdraw cash from and write checks on a bank account, controlled by Franklin and funded by CCOPS. At the time, Jones was the Executive Assistant to Robert L. Neal, Jr., the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization ("SADBU") within the DoD. SADBU was the office chiefly responsible for the administration of acquisition preference programs within DoD. Neal held his position as Director of SADBU from June 1996 until June 2001. Franklin allowed Jones access to the funds in part to financially reward him for his on-going assistance to CCOPS in connection with the DMSO contracts. Jones gave \$72,000 of the \$347,000 to Neal.

In November 2003, Robert Neal and Francis Jones were each sentenced to 24 years incarceration after being convicted of bribery, extortion, and money laundering in connection with their SADBU activities.

The investigation was conducted by special agents of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Learned.

###